



{In Archive} Arizona Strip Uranium

Laura Mayo to: Jeanne Geselbracht

09/30/2009 12:52 PM

Archive:

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I didn't see that you received these summaries of the meetings with tribes about the uranium mines. In the Kaibab one, at least, there is an assertion that new NEPA should be required.

LM

----- Forwarded by Laura Mayo/R9/USEPA/US on 09/30/2009 12:51 PM -----

From: Pamela Overman/R9/USEPA/US
To: Laura Mayo/R9/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 09/29/2009 06:29 PM
Subject: Fw: Havasupai Pictures

----- Forwarded by Pamela Overman/R9/USEPA/US on 09/29/2009 06:29 PM -----

From: Clancy Tenley/R9/USEPA/US
To: Pamela Overman/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Scott Stollman/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Timothy Grant/R9/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 09/29/2009 04:27 PM
Subject: Fw: Havasupai Pictures

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----- Forwarded by Clancy Tenley/R9/USEPA/US on 09/29/2009 04:24 PM -----

From: "Brian Davidson" <Davidson.Brian@azdeq.gov>
To: Jean Gamache/R9/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Clancy Tenley/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Wendell Smith/R9/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 09/29/2009 02:26 PM
Subject: Havasupai Pictures

Jean,

I think I sent you the information about us and consultation with the three tribes in Northern Arizona in regards to Uranium Mining. Attached are the memo's regarding the consultation. The Havasupai Tribe the most difficult. It was six hours of consultation and they allowed anyone in the village who wanted to come down to speak to us, to do so. They allowed people to speak how ever long they wanted and some people spoke for about 20 min. We were there to listen. There were many tears and a lot of emotion. I believe the tribe was learning to express itself on this issue for the first time.

I also have some pictures of the Havasupai Falls I will send you in another e mail. Those pictures are more recreational...in case you have not been to Havasupai Falls.

Brian Davidson

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HavasupaiUraniumTripMemorandum.doc



KaibabPaiuteUraniumTripMemorandum.doc



HualapaiMemorandum.doc



Memorandum

Date: August 26, 2009
To: Henry Darwin, Water Quality Division Director, Nancy Wrona, Air Quality Director
From: Brian Davidson, Tribal Liaison
Subject: Consultation with the Havasupai Tribe regarding Uranium Mining

On Thursday, August 20, Water Quality Division Director, Henry Darwin and I traveled to the Havasupai Nation to consult with the tribal council and the members of the village regarding the proposed permits for uranium mines along the Arizona strip. The meeting started at 11:00am. A short presentation was given by Henry Darwin and me which lasted a total of 15 minutes. Following the presentation, questions and comments were delivered by the council and other members the village who could attend the meeting.

The meeting was taped by a non profit organization. The meeting also started out having a translator. Translations were only performed for the first few comments. It was unclear who the designated facilitator was for the meeting.

As hours went by we heard members of the village testify to us. We received comments surrounding cultural and religious issues opposing uranium mining. There were few questions about the provisions in the permits. The meeting lasted six hours long ending at 5:00pm. Henry and I were willing to listen to their concerns as long as it took.

Henry and I did see several flyers around the village advertising our visit. We delivered handouts at the meeting (see attachment).



Memorandum

Date: August 28, 2009
To: Henry Darwin, Water Quality Division Director, Nancy Wrona, Air Quality Director
From: Brian Davidson, Tribal Liaison
Subject: Consultation with the Kaibab Paiute Tribe regarding Uranium Mining

On Thursday, August 27, Groundwater Section Unit Manager, Carrolette Winstead, Air Quality Permits Section Unit Manager, Scott Baggione, and I traveled to the Kaibab Paiute Tribe to consult with the Tribal Council and members of the tribe regarding the proposed permits for uranium mines along the Arizona strip.

Before the council meeting, Scott, Carrolette, and I met with LeAnn Skyrnzski and Daniel Bullets from the Kaibab Paiute EPA office, Sarah Burger from the Water Resource Office, and Chris Brown, an intern hydrologist, all working for the Kaibab Paiute Tribe. They asked numerous questions about permits and we provided answers.

At the Council meeting, Carrolette, Scott, and I gave a short presentation to the Council then entertained questions and comments from the Council. We gave handouts to the Council and some of the audience. The tribal Chairwoman, Ona Segunda declared she was against any operations of uranium mining near their Tribe, as did the other Council members present. Chairwoman Segunda also recognized that the nearby communities were in favor of the mining operations. Two members of the council were absent.

Chairwoman Segunda opened comments to members of the tribe who were at the meeting. Carrolette, Scott, and I listened to members of the tribe, answered questions, and listened to their concerns. The meeting lasted a little over an hour. We let them know there would most likely be additional permitting requirements on two of the mines and we would be willing to come back for further consultation.

Roger Clark of the Grand Canyon Trust was also present during the pre-meeting and Council meeting. He explained that the Trust is planning a lawsuit based upon an outdated Plan of Operations. He believes this outdated plan is not allowed and will prevent the mine from being able to operate. If accepted, he believes this will trigger a new NEPA action, including updating of the EIS.



Memorandum

Date: August 11, 2009
To: Henry Darwin, Water Quality Division Director and Nancy Wrona, Air Quality Director
From: Brian Davidson, Tribal Liaison
Subject: Consultation with the Hualapai Tribe regarding proposed Dennison Mine

Pursuant to ADEQ's Tribal Policy and to the request from the Hualapai Tribe to Director Grumbles dated July 20, 2009, on Monday, August 10, Carrolette Winstead (WQD) and I traveled to Peach Springs to consult with the Tribal Chairman, Wilfred Whatoname, Sr., Alex Cabillo, Program Manager of the Water Resources Program and two staff members of the Water Resource Program, Alvin Crook (Water Tech II) and Joe Montana, Jr. (Water Tech I). The meeting lasted for 1.5 hours, followed by lunch.

Chairman Whatoname initiated the meeting by expressing his concern over uranium mining and telling us a moratorium has been placed on any mining on the Hualapai Nation. Two pieces of information were presented to us from the Tribe a position paper titled, "Hualapai Concerns Regarding Uranium Mining in the Colorado River Watershed" and a newsletter prepared by the Hualapai Tribe called "Gamya." In the newsletter, there was an article entitled "Poison in the Earth", which is a two-page story of the 1979 Church Rock spill.

Chairman Whatoname asked us to deny the permits submitted to ADEQ for all three proposed mine sites. The Hualapai's are very concerned about the depleting reservoirs due to mining activity and the lack of allocation of water rights to the people of the Hualapai Tribe. There are 180 miles of the Colorado River on the Hualapai Tribe, but currently, the tribe is looking into what rights they may have to that water. They also have concerns of people dying of cancer due to what they believe was caused by mining operations in the past.

The conversation turned to the old Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) completed under the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service, which are over 20 years old. The Tribe is concerned that the information in the EIS documents is outdated and they know additional data have been collected since the completion of these documents.

The Chairman and Mr. Cabillo had the fact sheets on the proposed mines. On August 11, I sent Mr. Cabillo all links to our information on the proposed mine site, in the event they did not have some information. The following link was sent to Mr. Cabillo:
http://www.azdeq.gov/pipermail/public_notices/2009-June/000750.html

There were no other follow up items other than letting Mr. Cabillo know if ADEQ makes any further decisions on the proposed permits.